

Message Text

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SUBJ: VISIT OF HADASSAH GROUP TO EGYPT

REF STATE 270455,

1. HADASSAH GROUP OF 16 WOMEN MEMBERS PLUS THREE HUSBANDS
HEADED BY MS CHARLOTTE JACOBSON, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE AMERICAN
SECTION OF THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION, COMPLETED FIRST
PART OF VISIT AND DEPARTED CAIRO FOR LUXOR DEC 20. GROUP WAS
RECEIVED FOR ONE HOUR BY MRS SADAT ON DEC 19 WHERE ARRANGE-
MENTS WERE MADE FOR THEM TO VISIT FAITH AND HOPE SOCIETY
HOSPITAL, WHICH MRS SADAT FOUNDED. MS JACOBSON SAID GROUP
HAD BEEN MOST IMPRESSED WITH MRS SADAT AND THEIR MEETING WAS
THE KIND OF PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACT THAT HADASSAH HOPED TO
ENCOURAGE.

2. AMB GAVE BRIEFING AND HAD QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
WITH GROUP DEC 20 LASTING ONE HOUR AND 45 MINUTES. MS JACOBSON
BEGAN SESSION BY STATING THAT DEL WAS NOT ON OFFICIAL HADASSAH
VISIT. SHE SAID PEOPLE OF THE US BELIEVE PEACE IS COMING IN
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THE ME AND THERE IS GREAT HOPE THAT IT IS NOT A "WILL OF THE
WISP". SHE ASKED FOR AMB'S CANDID OPINION ABOUT THE CHANCES
FOR PEACE AND WHAT ROLE THERE MIGHT BE FOR PRIVATE AMERICAN
CITIZENS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE AND SECURITY OF ISRAEL.

3. AMB TOLD GROUP "COPERNICAN CHANGE" HAD TAKEN PLACE IN

US-EGYPT RELATIONS DURING PAST THREE YEARS AND THIS HAD
ENABLED SOME MODEST PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE TO BE MADE. HE
ALSO CITED "NEW REALISM" AMONG LEADERS OF CONFRONTATION STATES.
HE DEFINED WHAT PRES SADAT IS SEEKING IN THE WAY OF A
"PEACE AGREEMENT" AND WHAT COULD AND COULD NOT BE EXPECTED
IN ITS WAKE. AMB ALSO REVIEWED STATE OF EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS
AND CONCLUDED THAT WHILE SOME NORMALIZATION POSSIBLE,
THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO IMPROVE SIGNIFICANTLY. AMB ALSO DISCUSSED
SADAT POSITION WITHIN EGYPT AND EXTENT OF OPPOSITION FROM
LEFTISTS AND RIGHTISTS.

4. IN QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION GROUP RAISED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

WHAT DO THE ARAB LEADERS MEAN BY PEACE? DOES IT INCLUDE
DIP RELATIONS, OPEN BORDERS, TRADE?

WHAT IS THE EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PLO TODAY?

WHY DO EGYPTIANS REFUSE TO ACCEPT AN AMERICAN PPT WITH AN
ISRAELI VISA IN IT WHICH NECESSITATES GETTING TWO PPTS?

(AMB SAID THAT GOUP HAD RECEIVED ERRONEOUS INFO FROM THE DEPT OF
STATE AND THE EGYPTIAN TOURIST OFFICE IN NEW YORK IF THAT IS
WHAT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD. IT IS THE POLICY OF THE GOE THAT
AN ISRAELI VISA IN PPT DOES NOT PROHIBIT ENTRY INTO EGYPT).

HOW MUCH US AID IS EGYPT ASKING FOR NEXT YEAR? GRANTS?
LOANS? WHAT PURPOSE?

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WOULDN'T PEACE BRING A TREMENDOUS RELIEF TO THE BUDGET BY
REDUCTING MILITARY EXPENDITURES?

WOULDN'T IT BE A MISTAKE TO REMOVE THE SUBSIDIES AS THE IMF
RECOMMENDATIONS STATE BECAUSE IT WOULD CREATE DISCONTENT
AND HAVOC?

IS SAUDI ARABIA STRONGLY BACKING SADAT IN SEARCH FOR PEACE?

WHAT MILITARY AID HAS US PROVIDED EGYPT?

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE NUCLEAR REACTOR AGREEMENT?

THERE IS A FEAR IN THE US THAT THE USG IN ITS DESIRE TO HELP
SADAT AND TO EXPEL THE USSR COMPLETELY WILL SELL EGYPT ARMS.
AMERICANS WOULD HATE TO SEE US BECOME MILITARY SUPPLIER FOR BOTH
SIDES INSTEAD OF USING ITS RESOURCES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

WHAT IS THE POSSIBILITY FOR SEPARATE PEACE BETWEEN EGYPT
AND ISRAEL?

5. GROUP IS ALERT AND VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT ARAB-ISRAELI
PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH PRIMARILY PRIVATE TOURIST TRIP AND CONTACTS
WITH EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO MRS SADAT AND PERSONNEL IN
A FEW MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS (VISITS ARRANGED BY TRAVEL AGENT),
WE BELIEVE WELCOME GROUP RECEIVED HERE IS SOME SI SIGNIFICANCE.
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